



State of Wisconsin
Department of Workforce Development
Office of Economic Advisors

June 2005

WORKFORCE OBSERVATIONS FOR SOUTHEAST WISCONSIN COUNTIES KENOSHA, RACINE AND WALWORTH COUNTIES

UNEMPLOYMENT RATE RISES IN TWO SOUTHEAST COUNTIES IN MAY

Kenosha County's unemployment rate rose one-tenth of a percentage point in May to 5.7 percent. The county's labor force shows a monthly increase of about 200 more employed and just over 100 more unemployed residents. Its annual overview shows a rate that is one-tenth of a point lower than in May 2004 and a labor force with approximately 100 more em-

ployed and 100 fewer unemployed residents. Its total labor force stood at 82,500 in May.

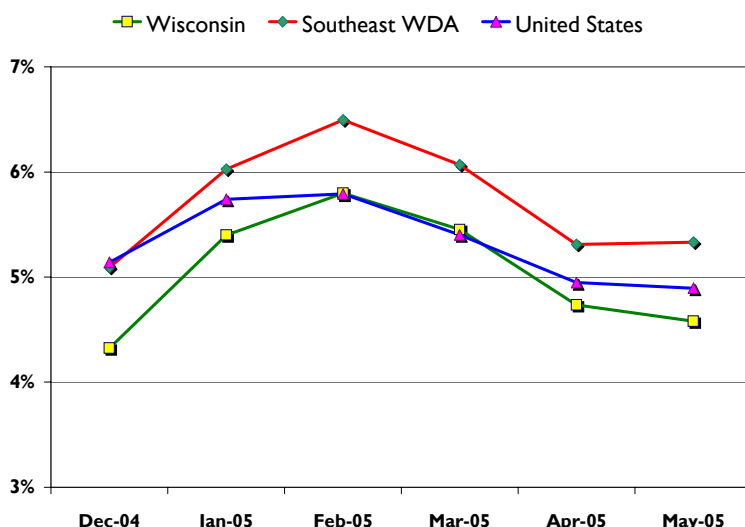
Kenosha County's job total numbered 56,500 jobs in May according to the nonfarm wage and salary employment survey. May's total is 800 jobs higher than it was in April. There did not appear to be any significant employment losses

though some sectors' employment levels were unchanged over the month. Manufacturing was one Kenosha's sectors to see no changes in its monthly employment. Leisure and hospitality, with its gain of 300 jobs, gained the most jobs, monthly. Smaller gains of 100 jobs each were dispersed among construction; professional and business services; government; total trade; and transportation, warehousing and utilities.

Annually, Kenosha has posted a net gain of 200 jobs. Increased employment in total trade; financial activities; education and health services; leisure and hospitality; and professional and business services combined for 1,100 more jobs, though this was offset by a combined annual loss of 900 jobs in manufacturing and government employment. This is the third month of 2005 to show an annual net job gain in Kenosha County.

Walworth County's unemployment rate dropped to 3.8 percent in May; down two-tenths of a percentage point. Walworth showed the most volatile monthly changes

Six-Month Unemployment Rate Watch



source: DWD and U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

Civilian Labor Force Estimates for Southeast Wisconsin Counties: May 2005

| | Wisconsin | | | Kenosha County | | | Racine County | | |
|--------------|-----------------|-----------|-----------|----------------|---------|---------|---------------|-------------|-------------|
| | May-05 | Apr-05 | May-04 | May-05 | Apr-05 | May-04 | May-05 | Apr-05 | May-04 |
| Labor force | 3,032,366 | 3,031,761 | 3,049,611 | 82,511 | 82,205 | 82,528 | 98,904 | 98,888 | 100,111 |
| Employed | 2,893,532 | 2,888,211 | 2,902,939 | 77,797 | 77,602 | 77,712 | 93,066 | 93,131 | 94,213 |
| Unemployed | 138,834 | 143,550 | 146,672 | 4,714 | 4,603 | 4,816 | 5,838 | 5,757 | 5,898 |
| % Unemployed | 4.6% | 4.7% | 4.8% | 5.7% | 5.6% | 5.8% | 5.9% | 5.8% | 5.9% |
| | Walworth County | | | Southeast WDA | | | United States | | |
| | May-05 | Apr-05 | May-04 | May-05 | Apr-05 | May-04 | May-05 | Apr-05 | May-04 |
| Labor force | 56,490 | 55,859 | 56,490 | 237,905 | 236,952 | 239,129 | 148,878,000 | 148,274,000 | 146,659,000 |
| Employed | 54,356 | 53,635 | 54,171 | 225,219 | 224,368 | 226,096 | 141,591,000 | 140,939,000 | 138,867,000 |
| Unemployed | 2,134 | 2,224 | 2,319 | 12,686 | 12,584 | 13,033 | 7,287,000 | 7,335,000 | 7,792,000 |
| % Unemployed | 3.8% | 4.0% | 4.1% | 5.3% | 5.3% | 5.5% | 4.9% | 4.9% | 5.3% |

Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics and DWD, Local Area Unemployment Statistics. Figures are not seasonally adjusted and current month's data are preliminary

Industry Employment Estimates for Southeast Wisconsin - May 2005

| | Wisconsin | | | Kenosha County | | | Racine County | | | Walworth County | | | Southeast WDA | | |
|-------------------------------------|--------------|------------|----------|----------------|------------|----------|---------------|------------|----------|-----------------|------------|----------|---------------|------------|----------|
| Employment in 1,000's | Change since | | May 2005 | Change since | | May 2005 | Change since | | May 2005 | Change since | | May 2005 | Change since | | May 2005 |
| | May 2005 | April 2005 | | May 2005 | April 2005 | | May 2005 | April 2005 | | May 2005 | April 2005 | | May 2005 | April 2005 | |
| All Industries | 2,844.5 | 37.2 | 27.0 | 56.5 | 0.8 | 0.2 | 79.8 | 0.9 | -0.5 | 44.2 | 1.3 | 0.3 | 180.5 | 3.1 | 0.0 |
| Construction/Natural Resources | 139.0 | 9.4 | 5.4 | 2.4 | 0.1 | 0.0 | 4.2 | 0.2 | 0.2 | 2.3 | 0.3 | -0.1 | 8.8 | 0.6 | 0.2 |
| Manufacturing | 503.3 | 5.1 | 2.9 | 9.7 | 0.0 | -0.7 | 18.9 | 0.2 | -0.2 | 9.2 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 37.8 | 0.2 | -0.8 |
| Total Trade | 428.6 | 3.7 | -1.0 | 8.8 | 0.1 | 0.3 | 12.8 | 0.1 | -0.6 | 5.7 | 0.1 | 0.1 | 27.3 | 0.3 | -0.2 |
| Retail Trade | 312.7 | 3.3 | -3.3 | xx | xx | xx | 9.3 | 0.1 | -0.6 | xx | xx | xx | xx | xx | xx |
| Wholesale Trade | 115.9 | 0.4 | 2.3 | xx | xx | xx | 3.5 | 0.0 | 0.0 | xx | xx | xx | xx | xx | xx |
| Transport/Warehouse/Utilities | 109.3 | 1.2 | 1.5 | 1.8 | 0.1 | 0.0 | 2.1 | 0.1 | 0.0 | 1.1 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 5.0 | 0.2 | 0.0 |
| Financial Activities | 157.7 | 0.4 | -0.5 | 1.7 | 0.0 | 0.1 | 2.6 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 1.2 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 5.5 | 0.0 | 0.1 |
| Education and Health Services | 384.4 | 1.4 | 10.0 | 8.7 | 0.1 | 0.2 | 10.4 | 0.0 | -0.1 | 4.5 | 0.1 | 0.2 | 23.6 | 0.1 | 0.2 |
| Leisure and Hospitality | 262.0 | 14.7 | 5.7 | 7.0 | 0.3 | 0.1 | 6.9 | 0.4 | 0.1 | 7.2 | 0.7 | -0.1 | 21.1 | 1.4 | 0.1 |
| Info./Prof./Bus. and Other Services | 437.3 | 1.4 | 2.3 | 7.2 | 0.1 | 0.4 | 11.7 | -0.1 | 0.1 | 5.3 | 0.1 | 0.1 | 24.1 | 0.0 | 0.6 |
| Information | 50.6 | -0.1 | 0.8 | xx | xx | xx | 0.6 | 0.0 | 0.0 | xx | xx | xx | xx | xx | xx |
| Professional and Business Services | 251.7 | 1.7 | 1.2 | xx | xx | xx | 6.5 | 0.0 | 0.2 | xx | xx | xx | xx | xx | xx |
| Other Services | 135.0 | -0.2 | 0.3 | xx | xx | xx | 4.6 | -0.1 | -0.1 | xx | xx | xx | xx | xx | xx |
| Fed/State/Local Government | 422.9 | -0.1 | 0.7 | 9.3 | 0.1 | -0.2 | 10.2 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 7.7 | 0.0 | 0.1 | 27.2 | 0.1 | -0.1 |

Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics and DWD, Current Employment Statistics. Figures are rounded and may not sum to total. Current month's figures are preliminary

in its labor force gaining over 700 more employed residents and showing almost 100 fewer unemployed. From an annual perspective, Walworth's labor force has an unemployment rate that is three-tenths of a point lower than what it was in May 2004. Its total labor force is virtually unchanged in number.

Walworth's total jobs tally is 44,200 as of May, rising by 1,300 jobs since April; a growth rate of three percent. Walworth's growth was the fastest and largest among the three regional counties, which is typical for Walworth at this time of the year given the seasonal burst in its labor market in the spring months. Most of the May's job bounce was in leisure and hospitality employment. Construction employment also registered a significant gain. These two sectors accounted for 1,000 new jobs.

Employment growth, annually, was more subdued in Walworth growing by 300 jobs overall. Education and health services showed the largest gain with 200 more jobs. There were two sectors that show an annual employment decline: leisure and hospitality (-100 jobs) and construction (-100 jobs). The county's remaining sectors either showed small job gains or re-

mained unchanged from an annual perspective.

Racine County's unemployment rate rose one-tenth of a percentage point in May to 5.9 percent. The rate is unchanged compared to May 2004. Racine County's overall labor force has contracted, annually, by about 1,200 participants, that is, with 1,100 fewer employed and about 100 fewer unemployed.

Racine's job base jumped up by approximately 900 jobs over the month to a total of 79,800 jobs. This net gain was centered in the leisure and hospitality sector as well as in manufacturing, which added 200 jobs over the month. Construction employment added 200 jobs as well. Only one industry showed significant job loss as the 'other services' industry declined by 100 jobs.

The county has continued to show job loss from an annual perspective and is currently 500 jobs less its total in May 2004. This net loss' foundation is in a 600-job decrease in retail trade employment as well as a 200-job dip in the manufacturing sector. Offsetting these losses were reported gains in professional and business services,

construction and leisure and hospitality. These sectors' gains combined for an additional 500 jobs annually.

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